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# About Doe Run



**On March 15, 1864**; the St. Joseph Lead Company was founded. The company was organized by the New York group which bought a large tract of land in southeast Missouri (State of Missouri Homepage), noted for lead deposits. The first mine was an eight-foot deep trench at Bonne Terre. The lead was removed with hand operated jigs and smelted in a charcoal oven with a sloping hearth. In the first two years, the company produced 260,126 lbs. of lead. Today, Doe Run can produce the same amount of lead in about five hours.

By 1869, St. Joe had brought in a diamond drill like those used in the Vermont granite quarries. This allowed for systematic searches for ore which revealed tremendous lead ore reserves. It also marked the beginning of underground mining in place of the previous open trench methods.

Mules provided the power for early-day underground haulage.

In 1886, the trustees of St. Joe gave approval to the local management to form a small company - The Doe Run Lead Company - primarily to acquire a tract of 150 mining acres on Doe Run Creek. Around 1890, Doe Run took options on several tracts of land in the vicinity of Flat River and began an aggressive drilling campaign. They hit a rich deposit of ore 150 feet deeper than the older mines. This resulted in the development of the Flat River Lead District.

From this beginning grew one of the world's largest lead producers. The company started construction on a lead smelter in 1890. Two years later, the Herculaneum, Missouri lead smelter began operation. It has been substantially reconstructed, but has been in continuous operation since that time processing lead ore concentrates for company-owned mining properties.

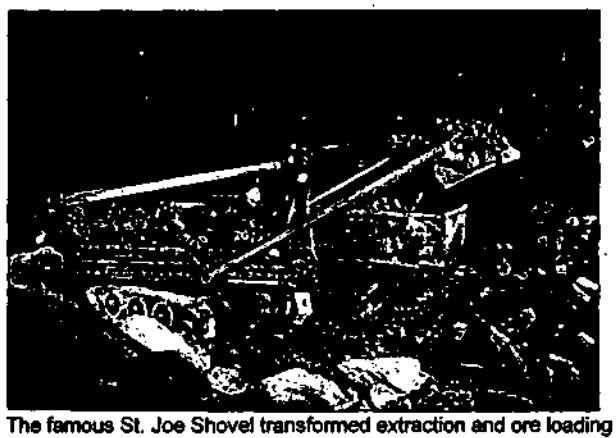
In the early days of St. Joe, mules were used to provide the power for ore haulage. In the early 1900's electric locomotives replaced the mules. Air powered percussion drills used to make holes in the face for explosives replaced the previous man-powered punchers. Rod mills and new shaking tables replacing the old jib tables, allowing for small particles of lead to be recovered, were coming on line.

A717
Site: Herculaneum
ID #: MOD006226373
Break: 1.0
Other:
4/26/99

aop

40199152
SUPERFUND RECORDS

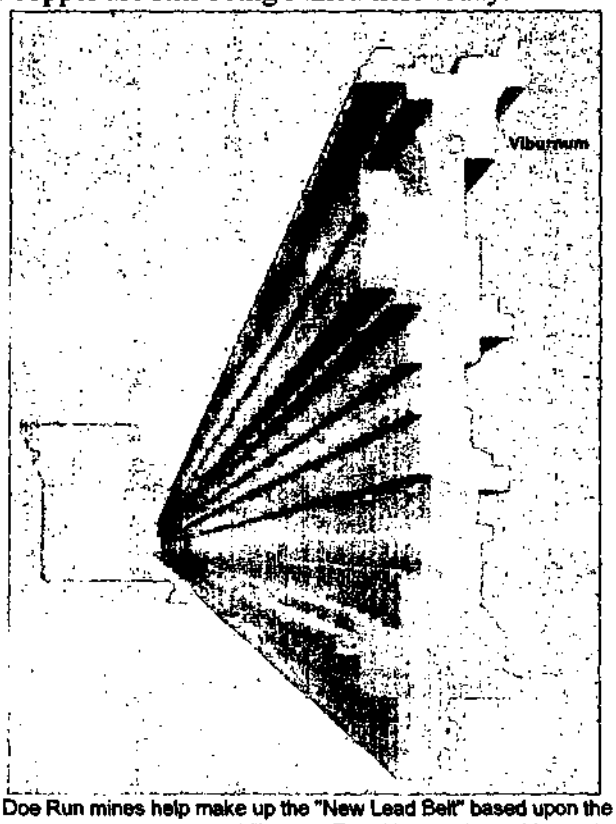
A mechanical loader on crawler treads, the famous St. Joe Shovel, began its 40-year career in 1920 as the main underground extraction and loading tool. In 1923, a 250-mile underground railroad was completed, eliminating expensive surface hauls and centralizing hoisting operations. At the same time, St. Joe introduced the roof bolt, still the mining industry's standard method of securing overhead rock.



The famous St. Joe Shovel transformed extraction and ore loading efficiancy in the 1920s.

In the 1950's the mineral content of the Bonne Terre Lead Belt was a low 2% lead. Surface drilling to locate more deposits was intensified. This resulted in defining what is today one of the most productive lead deposits, The Viburnum Trend. This is also known as the "New Lead Belt". Lead ore with associated zinc and copper are still being mined here today.

Homestake Mining Company (Homestake Mining Company Homepage) joined American Metal Climax in Missouri (AMAX) exploring lead-zinc orebodies in the Viburnum Trend in 1961. They formed a joint venture in 1965 developing an orebody. Homestake also acquired a fifty percent stock in the Missouri Lead Smelting Company. 1969 saw the start up of the U.S.'s newest lead smelter in 40 years. The Buick Mine and Mill came into operation the next year. Homestake purchased AMAX's fifty percent interest in May of 1986, and wholly owned the complex. This set the stage for the creation of The Doe Run Company on November 1, 1986; one hundred years after the formation of the original Doe Run Lead Company. With six mines, and four mills, one primary smelter, one lead recycling plant and two lead fabrication plants (Fabricated Products, Inc.), Doe Run is the world's premier lead producer.




The Doe Run mines help make up the "New Lead Belt" based upon the Viburnum Trend in sountheast Missouri.

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